Janice K. Brewer Governor

Bryan Martyn Executive Director



**Board Members** 

Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail, Chair
Kay Daggett, Sierra Vista
Alan Everett, Sedona
Larry Landry, Phoenix
William C. Scalzo, Phoenix
Tracey Westerhausen, Phoenix
Vanessa Hickman, State Land Commissioner

# Minutes of Public Meeting THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP (OHVAG) of THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Antle, meeting called to order June 21, 2013 at 10:30 AM at the Riordan Mansion State Historical Park in Flagstaff, Arizona

#### INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Rebecca Antle, Chair, Arizona State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs Pete Pfeifer, Pima County, American Motorcycle Association David Moore, Maricopa County, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Bill Nash, Maricopa County, Ridenow Jeff Prince, Arizona State Parks Absent: Don French and Thomas McArthur Quorum achieved.

#### C. ACTION ITEMS

**1. Approve Minutes from the April 26, 2013 OHVAG meeting**. (at 1 minute) Antle moves, Nash 2nds. No comments or changes. Motion carries.

## 2. Consider increasing the Grant Award for the Coconino Trail Riders OHV Project.(at 1 minute 30 seconds)

Prince explains history of the project and the need to amend the grant award to cover insurance costs and correct a mathmatical error made by staff. Moore states that he feels that insurance should just be a required part of the grant application automatically. Nash affirms the importance of insurance to avoid financial impact and making it a mandatory part of the grant automatically. Antle comments on how to avoid these types of amendments in the future. Prince states that his intention is require a pre-grant submittal conference to be completed with each applicant to avoid future issues such as, but not limited to, situations such as this. The applicant would then be encouraged to attend Bob's grant workshop that typically preceeds making the actual application. Prince states that part of his role is not to be a barrier to moving grant money, but to be a cheerleader, coach, and facilitator of making our grant applicants successful. This new process should ensure that we iron out any issues and prepare the applicants to be successful before the advisory committees and Board even look at the grants.

Nash moves, Pfiefer 2nds. No comments or changes. Motion carries.

3. OHVAG will consider developing a motorized trails designation similar to the non-motorized Arizona State Trails designation. A motion may develop for the creation of a special committee to work on this project. (at 9 minutes)

Prince states that OHVAG has the authority to create special subcommittees such as this and can have members of the public join the subcommittee so the work is not entirely on OHVAG. Prince further states that subcommittees such as this would be subject to Open Meeting Law and Parks would help facilitate such subcommittees meet.

Antle states the need for an icon based rating system to indicate difficulty. Group conversation compares Moab and other areas around the country that indicate vechile to use and difficulty. Ski industry standards such as blue, green, black trails are recommened. Prince shares the example the BLM in Havasu in partnership with the Havasu 4 Wheelers has done exactly what the group is talking about. Moore states that this is a great system compared to the number based difficulty system is easier for the public to comprehend. Nash agrees. Prince states that the numerical difficulty system could be provided by the clubs who adopt the trails and provide additional information agencies may not be comfortable posting on signs.

Prince shares examples of gate keepers on technical vehicle routes in Table Mesa. Antle and Nash like the idea of gate keepers/rookie filters. Prince states that rookie filters are also a tool for keeping the spirit of the trail intact, avoids rock stacking, and promotes safety by keeping the unpreparred off technical trails. Prince also shares examples of icon based breadcrumbs on steel posts to help the public navigate without using GPS or other navigation tools and stay on the trail. Prince shares the Prescott National Forest's steel bollards used to indicate dispursed camping spots that are vandal resistant and easily identified.

Prince offers that a subcommittee is a great way to introduce new members of the public to participating in our programs and groom them to be future OHVAG members. Recruiting from large clubs will likely get plenty of people to participate.

Antle inquires about web based meetings. Prince states that the State Parks Board Room is being outfitted for web based meetings and will likely be available to assist with these efforts.

Prince advocates for the inclusion of a few agency people on a subcommittee to help grease the skids on getting these things done. Cites example of Bill Gibson being on ASCOTT. Suggests someone like Tom Bickauskas would be a great candidate since he has a background in motorized recreation and managing on the ground projects.

Antle moves to form a subcommittee for motorized trails designation. Pfiefer seconds. Motion carries. (at 48 minutes)

4. Developing trail difficulty ratings on public lands. OHVAG shall discuss the need and rationale for such work. A motion may develop for the creation of a special committee to work on this project.

Discussion on this item occurred in conjunction with item 3.

Antle moves to develop a trail trail difficulty rating system on public lands as a function of the newly formed Motorized Trails Designation subcommittee. Pfiefer seconds, motion carries (at 50 minutes)

5. OHVAG will discuss providing agencies and groups interested in applying for grants examples of successful projects and grant packages. OHVAG shall discuss existing projects and submittals from which to draw examples from. A motion may develop for the creation of a special committee to address this project.

Discussion on providing examples to grant applicants shifts towards addressing the difficulty in OHVAG scoring grants. Group expresses an interest in returning to relying on staff scoring and OHVAG using a narrative to describe support or the lack of support for individual grants based upon OHV and community specific knowledge.

Nash moves that ASP staff reviews all grants and score them. Staff shall provide the all grant materials, scores, and any comments to OHVAG for consideration. OHVAG shall review all provided materials and provide combined review comments on each grant project to be forwarded to the Parks Board. Moore seconds, motion carries. (at 1 hour 16 minutes)

#### **Report-Parks Board Actions on OHVAG Items** (at 1 hour 18 minutes)

Prince reports that the Parks Board approved the grant modification approved at the last OHVAG meeting. AORRC approved the OHV budget and increasing the CTR grant modification, which will be forwarded for the Board's consideration.

#### **Report-OHV Program** (at 1 hour 19 minutes)

Prince reports on OHV Program accomplishments April to present.

An outline of proposed marketing plan is provided and will be discussed at a future meeting. A list of upcoming grant projects is provided so OHVAG knows what to expect when the packages are sent out before the next meeting.

Prince states that he is using the OHV Newsletter to communicate OHV Program accomplishments each month. Nash states that the way the OHV newsletter is being done exactly the way it needs to be done.

Pfiefer inquired about getting hard copies of the newsletter. Links will be provided to OHVAG members to share with their contacts.

Prince reports on the dealership outreach program.

Nash states that Scott Pasmore would be a great resource to get media exposure. Pfiefer suggests promoting camping off the bike and other non-competitive fun OHV activity. Prince states he is dragging his heels a bit on marketing because he wants to get the wheels back on the program before promoting with the media. With the

grant money flowing, outreach efforts improving, and programs developing, things are improving and will soon be ready for promoting.

Antle offers to promote newsletter by linking on the website.

Prince requests OHVAG members to send links to forums that he should participate in. Prince offers to send some links to posts he has made on various forums. Prince requests help from OHVAG to connect with OHV hunting communities.

Prince talks about recent trip to Apache County, presenting to the Rough Riders, talking to the areas district ranger, and investigate connecting Springerville to Showlow. Nash advises Prince to present at the Apache County Rough Riders Jamboree.

Prince talks about the reorganization of the OHV Ambassador program, the departure of Marge, and ASP absorbing those duties. Explains the new training format to be unveiled in Prescott in August. Half classroom at Overland Journal and half field work at Alto Pit. Additionally, a fun rides will be done Saturday evening and Sunday morning to encourage team building and fun being incorporated into the OHVA.

Prince updates the group on the new Trail Tools Program and the shift towards more admin work to begin acquiring the resources outlined in the soon to be approved budget. GIS map program strategy is outlined.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**(at 2 hour 2 minutes)

No public was present to make comment.

#### CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS(at 2 hour 2 minutes)

- OHVAG feedback on marketing plan
- How to populate the Motorized Trail Designation Subcommittee
- Adding requirements to awarded grant projects to provide documentation and photos of the project before final payments are made
- Add a webpage for active grants for people to post in process photos
- Selection of new OHVAG members

## TIME AND PLACE OF 2013 OHVAG MEETINGS(at 2 hour 32 minutes) September 6, 2013 10am in Springerville vicinity

#### **ADJOURNMENT** (at 2 hour 36 minutes)

Antle calls for adjornment, Pfiefer so moves, Nash seconds, motion carries Meeting adjorned 1:13 PM